

true of others, the number of citizens of the county, or their names, who were, during the war, arrested and sent under guard to the military prisons of the North, many of them by Harris--generally without cause and without any specific charge being made know to them, and many of whom did not live to return to their homes.

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Detailed history of the Battle of Droop Mt. Gives events and dates preceding battle; full description of battle with map of battlefield.

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History

BATTLE OF DROOP MT.

NOVEMBER 6, 1863

BY CAPT. E. R. HOWERY

EVENTS AND DATES PRECEEDING BATTLE

- Nov. 1, 1863--Gen. W. W. Averell left Beverly, West Va
- Nov. 3, 1863--Gen. A. N. Duffie left Charleston, W. Va
- Nov. 5, 1863--Gen. John Echols occupied Droop Mountain
- Number of troops engaged (Union)-----4700
- Number of troops (Confederate)-----3950
- Number killed (Union)-----130
- Number killed (Confederate)-----400
- Troops from West Virginia, Virginia, Ohio and Pennsylvania took part in the battle.

Confederate troops. The forces of Gen. Averell were able to push back all resistance and on November 5th, reached the town of Hillsboro, W. Va., about 3 miles from Droop Mountain and 33 miles from Lewisburg. The Union forces were advised that General Duffie would not reach Lewisburg until November 7th so didn't attack until the morning of November 6th, 1863.

The plan of attack by the Union troops was as follows: 14th Pennsylvania Cavalry were placed near the Locust Creek bridge in sight of the Confederate lines, and kept moving around giving the appearance of starting towards the Southern lines.

Keopers battery was placed on the hill above Beards Mill, and immediately opened fire on the Confederate batteries on top of Droop Mountain about 8:00 A. M. Eiven's battery was placed to the left of the turn pike between Hillsboro and Droop. Gibson's batallion and the famous 10th W. Va Infantry was held in readiness on the pike at Hillsboro.

The 2nd, 3rd, and 8th West Virginia Mounted Infantry Regiments were on the right of the turn pike out of sight about two miles from the base of Droop Mountain.

The 28th Ohio Infantry with one company of the 14th Pennsylvania Cavalry (about 1200 men in all) were sent on a long detour to the right via Labolia to come over the Jacob road and take the

The Battle of Droop Mountain was fought November 6th, 1863 between Union Forces, commanded by Brig. Gen. William W. Averell, U.S. Army, and Confederate troops under the command of Brig. Gen. John Echols, C.S. Army.

One of the reasons for the meeting of these two forces in West Virginia at this time was; The western part of Virginia was inhabited by people who were in favor of the Union, so June 20th, 1863 the old state of Virginia became divided into Virginia and West Virginia.

Confederate troops then were sent into the newly formed state so as to harass the Union troops in that vicinity, also to break down the morale of the people who had left the old state of Virginia.

The Southern Troops were very successful. They occupied the Greenbrier Valley with Headquarters at Lewisburg. The road from Lewisburg via Union to the Virginia border was the only available road to Virginia and Tennessee and had the Union troops who were located

in the vicinity of Elkins and near Charleston separated. Also winter was coming and the Confederate forces had to be drawn out so that the line could be maintained. The Southern troops were living off of the country and the people were insisting that aid be sent to them.

On October 28th, Gen. Benjamin Kelly, U.S. Army ordered General Averell who at that time was stationed at Beverly, West Virginia, to move to Lewisburg and capture or drive away any Confederate forces stationed in that vicinity. Also to join forces with General Duffie who left Charleston November 3rd, 1863 at 6:00 A.M. for Lewisburg. After a junction of the two forces, they were to move to Union W. Va. and thence to Virginia and Tennessee R.R., at Dublin Station and destroy the railroad bridge over New River.

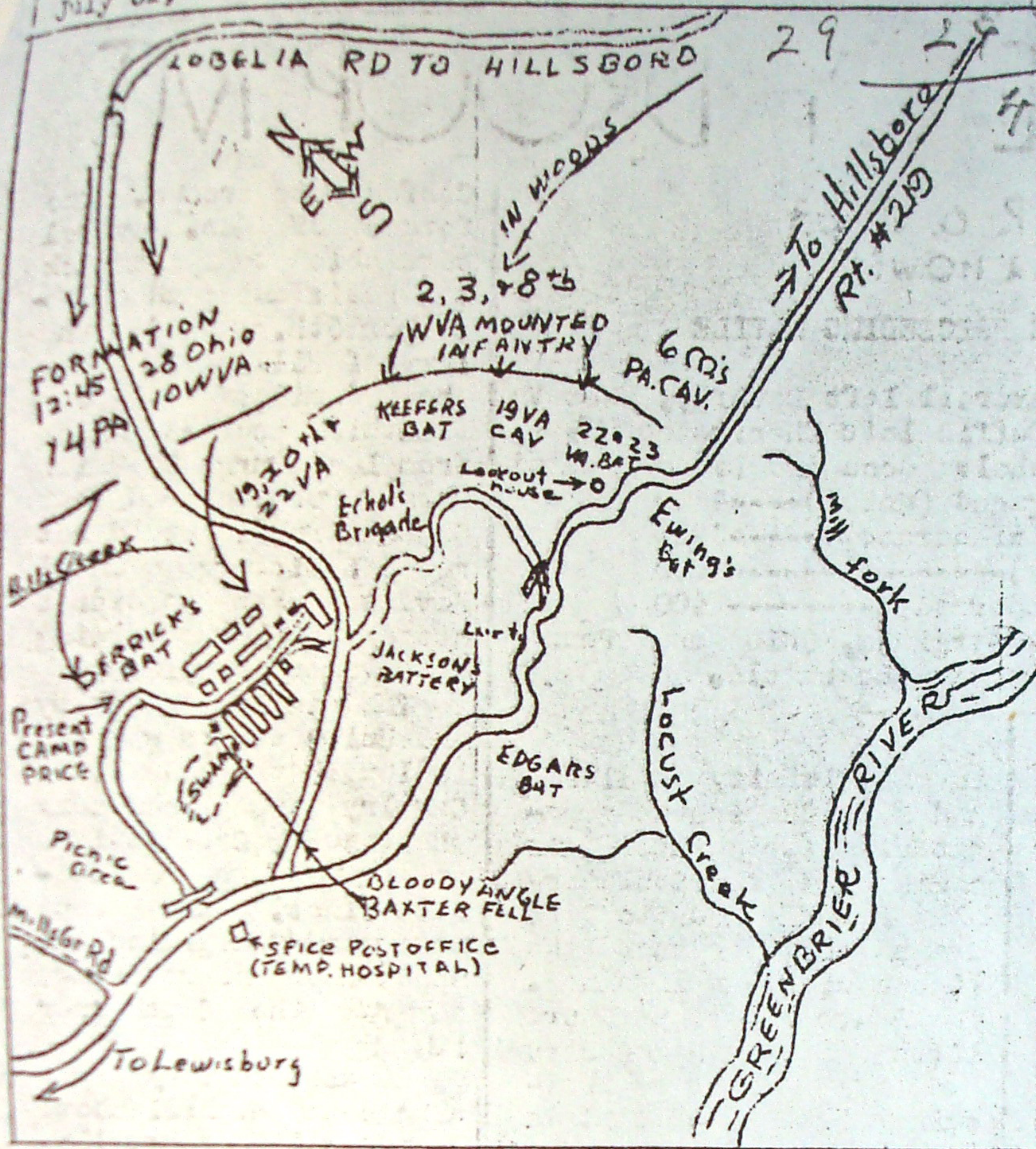
General Averell moved on the 1st day of November and immediately contacted guerrilla bands and small detachments of

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MAP OF BATTLEFIELD

Confederates on the left flank. This movement started about 5:00 A.M. and due to conditions of the roads, did not complete the march until 1:45 P.M.

The position of the Southerners was as follows: On the river road, Edgar's Battalion; on the brow of the mountain facing the Union troops from right and left, 22nd Virginia Cavalry under Colonel Patton; 19th Virginia Cavalry under Col. Cochran; Derrieks' Battalion of Infantry, Jackson's batteries; Major Blessing with a company of the 23rd Battalion was placed on the Lobelia-Jacob road covering the left flank. The right flank was protected by a steep mountain.

About 1:45 P.M. Novem-

ber 6th, 1863, the flanking party that had been sent via Lobelia reached the Confederate lines and immediately attacked.

The 2nd, 3rd, and 8th Regiments immediately started a direct attack up the face of Droop Mountain. They joined force with the flanking party, and drove the Confederate back toward Lewisburg.

Due to the road being narrow the Confederates were in confusion-cavalry and Infantry all mixed up together.

Colonel Thompson was in command of the rear guard of the Confederate and it was through his strong defense that the Southern troops were able to withdraw without much loss of life or equipment.

Another thing that might have influenced the retreat was that Gen. Averell did not wish to push the Confederates too fast, as he wanted Gen. Duffie to reach Lewisburg first and cut them off.

The Confederates retreated on thru the night and passed thru Lewisburg just as General Duffie, entered the town from the west. General Duffie captured a few stragglers and some equipment.

The battle was the deciding point in West Virginia. After this the entire state was in the hands of the Northern armies.

One very interesting part of General Echols' report is quoted: "My artillery and trains were brought safely through with the exception of one brass Howitzer belonging to Chapman's battery, which broke completely down during the retreat so that it had to be left this offering the enemy the only trophy of which they can boast."

This cannon is supposed to have been buried in the swamp on Droop Mountain, but has never been found. For those who visit the Droop Mountain Battle Field, a large map has been drawn showing the position of the troop the day of the battle, also the present location of Camp Price, a larger and more distinct map, than could be shown here. This larger map shows location of monuments, markers and other items of interest.

Co. 2598, CCC, invites all to visit the Battle Field and will enjoy showing to visitors the old battle trenches, breastworks, gun implements, and other interesting things.